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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IM-PERIAL COLLEGE INNOVATIONS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KORCHEV, Yuri, Evgenievich [GB/GB]; Dept of Medicine, Imperial College School of Medicine, at the Hammersmith Campus, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN (GB). LAB, Max, Joseph [GB/GB]; Dept. of Medecine, Imperial College School of Medecine, at the Hammersmith Campus, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN (GB).

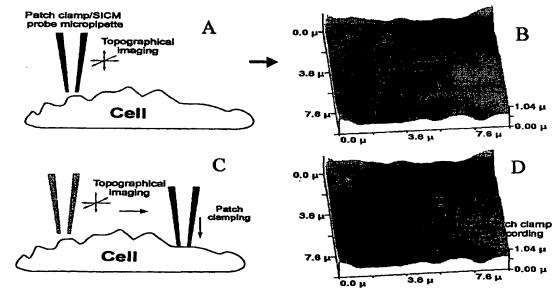
- (74) Agent: GILL JENNINGS & EVERY; Broadgate House, 7 Eldon Street, London EC2M 7LH (GB).
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### (54) Title: PATCH-CLAMPING AND ITS USE IN ANALYSING SUBCELLULAR FEATURES



(57) Abstract: A method investigating a cell, comprises bringing a probe close to the surface of the cell or a part thereof, at a controlled distance therefrom; and into contact with the surface, essentially normal to the surface, to achieve patch-clamping.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

#### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

nai Application No

rui/dB 02/01382 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 GO1N33/487 GO1N G01N21/00 G02B21/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 GO1N GO2B Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, INSPEC, PAJ, WPI Data, BIOSIS C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X KORCHEV Y E ET AL: "SPECIALIZED SCANNING 1-13 ION-CONDUCTANCE MICROSCOPE FOR IMAGING OF LIVING CELLS" JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPY, OXFORD, GB, vol. 188, no. PART 1, 1997, pages 17-23, XP000913863 ISSN: 0022-2720 page 17, left-hand column, paragraph 1 page 17, right-hand column, paragraph 3 page 18, right-hand column, paragraph 2 -page 19, line 2; figure 2 page 23, left-hand column, paragraph 1 X WO OO 63736 A (IMP COLLEGE INNOVATIONS LTD 1.11 - 13:KLENERMAN DAVID (GB); KORCHEV YURI EV) 26 October 2000 (2000-10-26) page 9, line 20 - line 26; figure 3 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone °L° document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 10 October 2002 18/10/2002 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni,

Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Savage, J

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